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**REMARKS
BY
U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH DAN MOZENA
U.S. TRADE SHOW
WELCOME RECEPTION
RUPOSHI BANGLA, DHAKA
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013**

AmCham President Aftab ul Islam

AmCham Vice President and Chevron Bangladesh President Geoff Strong

AmCham Executive Director Gafur

Welcome ... welcome to everyone as we gather together on the eve of the 22nd annual United States Trade Show in Bangladesh. I wish to extend a special welcome to the delegation from the American Chamber of Commerce of India, representing 17 American companies and led by Vishal Wanchoo, GE's Vice President for Growth Initiatives. We are so glad that you were able to come ... I think you will find the trip well worth your while.

I think all of us can feel the excitement in the air as we look forward to the grand opening of the show tomorrow. Indeed, there is much to be excited about.

Bangladesh is a happening place. Averaging over six percent annual growth over the past two decades, Bangladesh is a burgeoning economy today with even brighter prospects for the future ... and America is a big part of this impressive economic growth.

America is Bangladesh's largest market. America is Bangladesh's largest investor. An American company is the largest taxpayer in Bangladesh. America is the third largest source of remittances. America is the second largest bilateral development partner.

Bangladesh's exports to America have surged past \$5 billion, and American exports to Bangladesh doubled in 2011 to over \$1 billion. This surging trade is about more than just statistics; it is about creating jobs ... hundreds of thousands of jobs in Bangladesh and about 10,000 jobs in America. My goal is to expand the trade even more. I want to double America's

exports to Bangladesh again. And Bangladesh seeks to expand its exports to America by diversifying its exports to the U.S.

I think this trade show is key to taking our bilateral trade to new heights, to the benefit of the people of both countries. When we open this show tomorrow, Bangladesh will see firsthand the wide range of goods and services that America provides.

I think America is a natural partner for Bangladesh as Bangladesh undertakes to build a Middle-Income Bangladesh, a Bangladesh where all families have the means to provide secure housing, ample, nutritious food, good healthcare and quality education for the children. American business can help make that vision reality. American business offers Bangladesh access to cutting edge technology and the world's best systems of management, growth and innovation. American know-how and ingenuity combined with Bangladeshi energy, dynamism, creativity, entrepreneurial skills and resilience are the perfect ingredients for business and commercial success, for building the New Bangladesh, the Middle Income Bangladesh.

I congratulate you, the leaders and members of AmCham Bangladesh, for your success in organizing another wonderful U.S. Trade Show, featuring over 50 exhibitors. I hope you are proud of this important contribution to building Sonar Bangla

I wish, too, to thank Geoff Strong and Chevron for sponsoring this reception this evening. Chevron is one of America's very best companies and is a model of corporate social responsibility as it supports Bangladesh's energy development. I am proud to be associated with this wonderful company, a message that I will deliver to corporate headquarters in California next week.

Again, thanks to all of you, especially the exhibitors, for making this trade show possible.

I look forward to seeing you tomorrow at the Grand Opening.

Thank you.

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**As prepared for delivery*